

In the Claims:

~~Please amend the claims as follows:~~

a1
b1
c1 1. (Amended) A medical device which includes a component formed from an alloy which contains at least about 40% Ni by weight, the device having a 10 nm deep surface region containing not more than about 5% Ni by weight.

2. (Amended) A device as claimed in claim 1, in which the alloy in said surface region contains not more than about 3% Ni.

a2 5. (Amended) A device as claimed in claim 3, in which said oxidizing treatment comprises a chemical treatment and an electrochemical treatment at the steps of exposure to superheated steam.

a3 7. (Amended) The device of claim 5, in which said electrochemical oxidizing treatment comprises anodizing in a acidic, neutral or basic solution.

SL 11. (Amended) A device as claimed in claim 1, in the form of a stent.